target, the principal strategy will be to set up production levels at international cost and prices, market promotion and expert thrust, international quality of products, rationalisation of tariff and procedures, strengthening the manpower base to give growth to the Electronic and Information Technlogy.

Andhra Pradesh proposal for "Electronics Governance"

2488. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY:

DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh Government has submitted a proposal for clearance of Project Report on Electronic Governance at a cost of Rs. 122 crores;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether Government have examined this proposal;

(c) what assistance would be extended to State Governments, like Andhra Pradesh who wish to develop electronics Governance; and

(d) the steps proposed to clear the proposal of Andhra Pradesh Government and by when the same would be cleared for implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S. R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) to (d) The Government of Andhra Pradesh submitted a proposal regarding the emerging paradigm of electronic Government being ushered by Information Technology and spelling out some of the areas for undertaking pilot projects, inter net applications and other IT applications which would help in providing a more convenient and citizen friendly interface with government. These have been discussed with the State Government officials and further action has been initiated based on these discussions.

New Passport Office at Tirupathi

2489. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether representations have been received for opening a new Passport Office at Tirupati in Chittoor District in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the major points made out by the representationists and the action taken thereon; and

(c) by Which date the new Passport Office is likely to be established at Tirupathi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) All the representations highlighted the difficulties faced by the people of southern districts of Andhra Pradesh due to long distance they have to cover to visit Hyderabad for getting passports. A new Passport Office has recently been opened at Visakhapatnam in A.P. for the convenience of the residents of that area. The number of applications received from Ttrupathi and its adjoining districts during 1996 was only 28121 which is far below the number of 50000 applications in a year recommended by the Standing Committee of Parliament on External Affairs for opening a new Passport Office in any State/region. As such there is no proposal to open another Pasaport Office in Tirupathi at present

Securing Support for Indian stand on CTBT

2490. SHRI RAJUBHAI A PARMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Questions 190 given to the Rajya Sabha on the 24th July, 1997 and state:

(a) whether the recent Critical Nuclear Test by the United States has vindicated India's stand and apprehensions

expressed while declining to sign the Comprehensive Test Bano Treaty (CTBT) that it is unacceptable preventing the non-weapon countries from conducting nuclear tests while leaving it open to nuclear weapon States to conduct them; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto by way of securing support to their views and stand on CTBT from other countries and, securing a just and fair perspective in relation to nuclear weapons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERWANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In a press statement on July 5, 1997, Government took note of the "sub-critical" test conducted by the United States on July 2, 1997 and expressed concern that the subcritical nuclear test has been justified "as an activity permitted under the CTBT. India has been consistently pointing out in both bilateral and international fora that the CTBT in its present form contains loopholes and without being placed in the context of a phased programme for global nuclear disarmament serves only a discriminatory non-proliferation intent rather than the urgent goal of global nuclear disarmament. India's stand on the CTBT enjoys support from non-aligned countries as well as international non-governmental organisations and the academic community. India believes that a nuclear weapon-free world will enhance our national security as well as global security.

Making Missiles with N-warheads by Pakistan

2491. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report captioned "Pak making N-warheads" which appeared in the Pioneer, dated the 9th July, 1997;

(b) if so, whether Government have since confirmed the reports that Pakistan is making missile with nuclear warhead with Chinese assistance, at its factory at Fateh Ganj; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERWANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government are aware of credible reports about Chinese assistance in Pakistan's missile programme. Government have made it clear that these developments pose a threat to India's security and are not conducive to the maintenance of peace and stability in the region. Government have been taking necessary steps to safeguard the security and national interest and will continue to do so in keeping with its assessment of developments pertaining to India's security environment.

Deployment of M-11 Missiles by Pakistan

2492. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have varified the reports that Pakistan has deployed Chinese built M-11 missiles near Indian border; and

(b) if so, the defensive measures taken by India to meet this threat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA): (a) and (b) Government are aware of credible reports in this regard. The acquisition of missiles and related technologies by Pakistan is being continuously monitored and assessed by Government. Our concerns regarding Pakistan's acquisition of M-11 missiles have been conveyed to the concerned countries. Government remains fully committed to taking all